

SOUTHERN NEVADA CHAPTER
OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

THE DESERT WIND

Editor: Bruce Behnke © 2015

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Dean's Notes



Southern Nevada Chapter
American Guild of Organists

To all my crazy organist friends out in AGO land!

Do you know how hard it is to come up with new and clever things to say for every newsletter? I agonize over this every time. Someone told me to just copy one from another chapter's newsletter. Then you'll be really confused when I start to talk about our next AGO meeting in Tucson!

Time moves so fast that now we're into Easter season already. I'm sure it's just as labor intensive and hectic as Christmas for most of you. I know that sometimes it's hard to enjoy the different Easter services when you are in charge of so many things. I may have told you this is the last newsletter, but after so many years of being the only organist and decent pianist in our ward (LDS) I came to dread Christmas Sunday. Then Carla Swift moved into our neighborhood and finally I got relief! Then I pulled a mean thing on her and I've gone to California for the last few Christmas Sundays. She probably thinks it's her turn this year! haha!

In our church we don't observe the pre-Easter days such as Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday. I have attended them in other churches and I appreciate the way that these observances and services help

to spiritually prepare you for Easter day.

Occasionally, our General Conference falls on Easter weekend. Which means we don't have meetings in our chapels. We usually watch Conference at home on the BYU channel. A lot of people make the trip to "Mecca" to attend the meetings in person. I've often wondered if people think it odd that our parking lots are sometimes empty on Easter Sunday. If you've ever noticed, now you know why!

You need to know that several days ago I pushed the "submit" button on our annual grant application to the Nevada Arts Council. This is a state agency that manages grant funding for qualified arts groups. Money also comes from the National Endowment for the Arts. The application process takes HOURS, people! And then after we receive the money, we have to go through another lengthy list of things when the season is over.

We have been applying for this grant since 2006. The last several years we have received about \$2,500 each year. It's not a lot, but it will pay the fee for one guest organist. Paul and Shireen have been involved in it longer than I have, but I have also done it now for about 5 years. David Dorway always provides the budget num-

bers for us and Dorothy Riess has done the sample uploads. You know what this means, don't you?? We need a few people to step up and volunteer to learn how to do this and be willing to help for at least several years. There is a learning curve but we will guide you through it. Shireen has to finish closing paperwork by June. We would like someone to work with her this year to learn the closing procedure.

The application itself is very time consuming but I've learned some tricks that help make it easier. You don't have to be a computer whiz. I am stupid on the computer and I figured it out.

I don't want to lecture, but it seems that there is a small core of people that do most of the work for our Chapter. We would appreciate a few others offering to give more time to the Chapter. We are all super busy but we do some great things and have wonderful guest artists given the size of our chapter and our small budget. We will guide you through the process next year.

Thanks to all of you who help keep our Chapter running.

Have a good Easter season.

Jan

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Clayton Roberts returns for a fine recital

Clayton Roberts, young organist from Houston, Texas, who grew up in Las Vegas, presented the third recital in the Southern Nevada AGO Chapter's 2014-2015 Organ Recital Series at Dr. Rando-Grillot Recital Hall on the UNLV campus at 7:30 on January 9, 2015. During his years growing up in Las Vegas, Clayton was an organ student of Ethelyn Petersen and a piano student of Mallie Riecken. For an appreciative audience of about 130 people, Clayton's program had something for everyone: works by Antonio Vivaldi/J. S. Bach, Johann Sebastian Bach, Frédéric Chopin, Felix Mendelssohn, Sir Arthur Sullivan, Daniel Gawthrop and Franz Liszt.

Clayton earned his undergraduate Bachelor of Music degree from Utah State University, and his Master of Music degree from the University of Houston. He is currently the principal organist at St. John Vianney Catholic Church in Houston where he will consult and monitor the installation of a large new pipe organ to be designed and built by the Austin Organ Company during the next several years with completion by Easter of 2016. Seventy-nine audience members completed the audience survey after the recital. Here are the numbers:



First time visiting Dr. Rando-Grillot Hall	Yes: 10	No: 69
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First hearing of the Maurine Jackson Smith organ	Yes: 12	No: 67
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First AGO recital	Yes: 20	No: 59
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How did you hear about the recital?

e-mail: 38 flyer: 9 previous program: 17 from a friend: 21 Internet: 2 newspaper: 2

Statement which best describes your feeling about the recital:

"I loved it" 60 (76%) "I liked it a lot" 16 (20%) "I found it interesting" 1 (1%)

"I wasn't really interested" 1 (1%)

Overall rating:

Superb=50 (76%) Excellent=26 (33%) Average=0 Fair=1 (1%) Poor=0

No response=2 Combined "Superb" and "Excellent" ratings = 76 (96.2%)

Eighteen audience members requested to be added to the e-mail notification list.

Paul S. Hesselink, Chair of the Recital Series Committee

March 20 Organ Recital to Celebrate Bach's 330th Birthday

The next recital in the Southern Nevada AGO Chapter Organ Recital Series will be presented on Friday, March 20, 2015 at 7:30 P.M. in Dr. Rando-Grillot Recital Hall in the Beam Music Center on the UNLV campus. The all-Bach recital is open to the public without charge.

I wanted this program to be "listener friendly" so I have deliberately chosen rather well-known Bach literature for our celebration. The program will include a wide variety of differing styles and genres from the vast amount of organ literature written by Bach. It will open with arguably "the best-known organ piece ever written," the *Toccata and Fugue in D Minor*, BWV 565. Among other works to be heard are Bach's three-movement transcription of Vivaldi's *Concerto in A Minor from L'estro armonico*, No. 8 for two solo violins and strings, Bach's double pedal setting of *An Wasserflüssen Babylon*, BWV 653b, as well as organ chorale preludes from *Orgelbüchlein*, the Eighteen Leipzig Chorales, and the Schübler Chorales. The program will conclude with the *Fugue in G Minor* ("Little"), BWV 578, which for this recital will be choreographed by Professor Margot Mink Colbert of the UNLV Dance Department faculty and danced by students in the dance program at the University.

Of course, if you are an organist, Bach is obligatory for study and performance. In my experience there is probably no composer who can "trip you up" as quickly and as thoroughly as can Bach. In addition, by choosing "familiar" Bach works, I have set myself a challenge. We'll aim and hope for the best!

Paul S. Hesselink



As adjunct faculty at UNLV since 1993, Paul Hesselink has played a major role in securing the university's Maureen Jackson Smith Organ in Dr. Arturo Rando-Grillot Hall, completed in 2004 by Rudolf von Beckerath Orgelbau of Hamburg, Germany.

Hesselink earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in organ at Hope College. He studied musicology under a Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship at University of Michigan, completed the Master of Arts in Organ Pedagogy at Ohio State University and earned the Doctor of Musical Arts at University of Colorado, Boulder. He studied harpsichord in Paris with Davitt Moroney.

For 26 years, Hesselink was on the faculty of Longwood University. He received two National Endowment Summer Fellowships for postgraduate study: in music theory (Yale), and Schoenberg studies (USC). His article, *Correspondence from the Schoenberg Legacy: 'Variations on a Recitative for Organ, Op. 40'* was published in the Schoenberg Journal and again in *The American Organist*.

Hesselink was affiliated with Nevada School of the Arts, serving as Dean for 12 years. In April 1996, he was the harpsichordist for the world premiere of Nevett Bartow's *Concerto for Harpsichord and Chamber Orchestra* with Nevada Chamber Orchestra. He also recorded the work with the Slovak Radio Orchestra in Bratislava (MCC, The Works of Nevett Bartow).

He is a member of College Music Society, American Musicological Society, Organ Historical Society, and American Guild of Organists. He serves on the boards of Friends- Las Vegas Youth Orchestras and Nevada School of the Arts.

Angela Kraft Cross in recital April 10, 2015

7:30 P.M. in Doc Rando Hall on the campus of UNLV

Bruce Behnke What first started your interest in the pipe organ?

Angela Kraft Cross When I was in grade school and our family attended the Burlingame Methodist Church, I was just entranced by the whole music department, Dr. Bill Ward leading the choir, and Mr. John McIntosh on the organ. I was very lucky because my primary piano teacher in those years, S. Leslie Grow, was a fine organist at a nearby church, and in his prime had studied with Marcel Dupré.

Behnke How old were you when you first started studying the organ seriously?

Kraft Cross I was seven when I started piano and ten when I began organ, both with Mr. Grow.

Behnke Who are some of the most influential teachers with whom you studied?

Kraft Cross At this point in my life, my single most influential organ teacher has been the one I have studied with intermittently for the last 20 years and with whom I continue to work, Louis Robilliard in Lyon, France. I also have learned overseas a great deal from both Marie-Louise Langlais and Sophie-Véronique Cauchefer-Choplin. At Oberlin I studied with William Porter and Garth Peacock. Here locally at home, I have worked extensively with Sandra Soderlund in Berkeley.

And I owe my initial love of the French Romantics and Bach to my first teacher, S. Leslie Grow.

Behnke What are some of the more interesting venues in which you have played?

Kraft Cross I have had a lot of fun playing in cool venues: In Paris: Notre Dame Cathedral (Vierne's church), St. Sulpice (Widor's church), La Madeleine, Ste. Clothilde (Franck's church), Notre Dame d'Auteuil; and St. François de Sales in Lyon. In London: Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, and Southwark Cathedral. in Hungary, the Szeged Cathedral. On this side of the pond: St. Thomas Church and St. Patrick's Church in New York; Washington National Cathedral in Washington DC; Trinity Church on Copley Square in Boston, and the nearby Methuen Concert Organ; in San Francisco, Grace Cathedral; and lastly Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles.

Behnke Do you do any improvisation and or have you ever composed music?

Kraft Cross I have only recently started really studying improvisation, so by European standards, I am still at an elementary level in this art form!

I do indeed compose, and have studied composition briefly long distance with Pamela Decker. I have released a CD, recorded at Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels of my principal organ works 1993-2012. I will be playing a few recent compositions on my UNLV program in April.



Behnke Who are some of your favorite modern composers?

Kraft Cross I especially love the composers from the German baroque and romantic eras, and the French Romantic. In recent years, there are a number of Langlais and Messiaen pieces that I enjoy playing. And I also enjoy playing a few of Pamela Decker's works. And of course, I enjoy premiering my own compositions!

Behnke What are some of the things being done to protect the future of our instrument?

Kraft Cross I am a member of a new nonprofit organization 501c3, called San Francisco Peninsula Organ Academy, that supports organists on short term overseas organ study trips. Our first trip under the auspices of this organization was over New Years when we brought two seventeen year old organists on an intensive twelve day study trip to Lyon and Paris, with each student receiving a generous scholarship to subsidize the cost of the trip. In ten days actually in France (subtracting the travel days) the two young men took a cumulative 25 hours of lessons with the likes of Louis Robilliard, Frédéric Blanc, Sophie-Véronique Cauchefer-Choplin, Marie-Louise Langlais, Christophe Mantoux, and Aude Heurtematte on many wonderful historic instruments! Anyone wanting to support our mission is cordially invited to make a tax-deductible donation!

Behnke What pieces will you be playing for us?

Kraft Cross The bulk of my program will feature what the von Beckerath does best, Germanic music. I will present a version of 300 years in the Germanic tradition with a fun assortment from Sweelinck, Buxtehude, Böhm, Mendelssohn, Schumann, Brahms and Bach. The last section will be representing France with Langlais and Widor. I will also be including mixed in two of my own works, the Grand Lothbury Voluntary (2014) and Tree of Life (2013).

Angela Kraft Cross	Grand Lothbury Voluntary
Sweelinck	Ballo del Granduca
Buxtehude	Prelude Fugue and Chaconne
Böhm	Vater unser im Himmelreich
Mendelssohn	Sonata A major
Schumann	Skizze F minor
Brahms	Herzlich tut mich verlangen
Bach	Prelude and Fugue in E minor "The Wedge"
Angela Kraft Cross	Tree of Life
Langlais	Fete
Widor	Scherzo and Final from Symphonie IV

Dr. Dorothy Young Riess in Santa Rosa CA

Dr. Dorothy Young Riess will perform an organ concert for the Creative Arts Series at Resurrection Parish, 303 Stony Point Road, Santa Rosa CA 95601, on Sunday, March 22, 2015, at 3:30 PM. Her program will include works by Buxtehude, Bach, Beethoven, Saint Saens, Wagner, Langlais, Alain, Karg-Elert and her own original compositions. Suggested donation \$15.00.

She played a similar program in Oklahoma City on Feb 22, 2015 and is pictured here seated at the Sebastian Glück Opus 14, Mayflower Congregational Church.



For Sale – Rodgers Organ. Model 520 c.2004 \$6,000

PEDAL		GREAT		SWELL	
Principal	16	Bourdon	16	Viola	8
Subbass	16	Principal	8	Viola Celeste	8
Octave	8	Gedackt	8	Principal	4
Gedackt	8	Octave	4	Nazard	2-2/3
Choral Bass	4	Spitzflote	4	Blockflote	2
Posaune	16	Super Octave	2	Tierce	1-3/5
		Quinteflote	1-1/3	Plein Jeu	IV
		Mixture	IV	Fagott	16
		Trompet	8	Hautbois	8



2 Manuals

Full pedalboard (AGO Specifications)

10 pistons (Reset tabs)

34 Tilt tabs

Bench w/storage shelf underneath

Transposer (full octave)

Reverb. Modifier

Tuning knob

No damage on the case. Stops probably best used in a church of for classical music

337 lbs. Dimensions: 45" tall, 58" across, 28" deep without pedals.

At 28" deep without pedals, it will fit through virtually any door.

2 pair Organ shoes (1 fully broken in), 1 unused, both size 8.5

For more information contact Doris Francis lvdbf2@embarqmail.com

From the desk of the editor.

As both newsletter editor and webmaster, I like to check out the websites and newsletters of other AGO chapters. I was recently rummaging around the website of the Albuquerque Chapter (<http://agoabq.org/>) and checking out their links tab. Under Purveyors of Organ Music I found a link to Zimbel Press. (<http://www.zimbel.com/>) This is a very interesting publishing house dealing in contemporary classical music, with a focus on music for the church. One of the composers that I recognized was Carson Cooman. I have seen his named listed as composer in many recital programs online and in the TAO. The other familiar name was David Dahl. Some of you may remember that David Dahl played the dedicatory recital on the All Saints' Cook instrument and it was my pleasure to be his driver for the weekend. Earlier Paul Hesselink, Janet Ty and I had visited him in Tacoma and he was a most gracious host taking us to see several Paul Fritts instruments including the then incomplete instrument at PLU and his other baby the Brombaugh at Christ Episcopal. David is represented in the Zimbel catalogue with *An Organ Anthology*. All of the music is ordered through Subito Music (<http://www.subitomusic.com/>) which also sells music from other publishers including Stephen Paulus's music. Check them out, Bruce Behnke



The UNLV Department of Music
and
The Southern Nevada Chapter of the
American Guild of Organists
present



March 21, 1685 - July 28, 1750

A Celebration of the 330th Birthday of
JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

Paul S. Hesselink and UNLV Dancers

Dr. Rando-Grillot Recital Hall, UNLV

Friday, March 20, 2015, 7:30 p.m.

Creative Arts Series

2014-2015

celebrating its ninth season of events

Sunday, March 22, 2015, 3:30 PM

per senses ad animum

**Resurrection Parish
303 Stony Point Road
Santa Rosa 95401**

Organist

Dorothy Young Reiss

Las Vegas, Nevada

Buxtehude, Bach,
Beethoven, Saint-Saëns,
Wagner, Langlais, Alain,
Karg-Elert, Reiss



SUGGESTED \$15 DONATION

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707-824-5611

Johann Sebastian Bach

“Christ lag in Todesbanden”

Christ Lay in Death Enshrouded



Lenten Cantata

Sunday, March 22, 2015

9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

*GVPC Valley Chorus, Chancel Choir and GVPC Chamber Orchestra conducted by
Spencer Baker from the Harpsichord*

Soloists: Landa Cole, Linda Ladage, Alfredo Martirena, and David Casey



Green Valley Presbyterian Church

1798 Wigwam Parkway, Henderson, NV 89074

Northeast corner of Valle Verde at Wigwam (just north of I-215)

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